

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Support for the changes to claim 1, other than the grammatical change, is found at the bottom of page 3 of the specification. Support for new claims 7-12 is found at pages 6-12 of the specification.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoshi '958 (Japanese Patent Application No. 10-248958) in view of Yamagishi '503 (USP 5,601,503). This rejection is reversed for the following reasons.

Distinctions between Present Invention and Satoshi '958

Satoshi '958 is mentioned at page 1 of the present specification. Satoshi '958 includes a "computer translation" into English which describes various materials for the core and cover of various golf balls. Satoshi '958 discloses in [0016]-[0017] a core which exhibits a compression in the range of 2.5-4.5 mm by applying an initial load of 10 kg up to 130 kg. The computer translation of Satoshi '958 does not include specific information regarding the dimple diameter or contour lengths of the dimples. Consequently, Satoshi '958 fails to disclose or suggest the golf ball of the present invention which includes the feature of having at least 50% of the dimples with a contour length of greater than or equal to

11.6 mm. Therefore, significant patentable distinctions exist between the present invention and Satoshi '958.

Distinctions between Present Invention and Yamagishi '503

Yamagishi '503 discloses a golf ball having a diameter of 43-47 mm, "preferably 43.3 to 46.3 mm," (Column 2, lines 64-65). Yamagishi '503 also discloses a golf ball which includes a core that may be formed from a cross linked rubber composition as noted at column 4, lines 18-50, and a cover that may be formed from an ionmer resin as noted at column 5, lines 14-17. Yamagishi '503 further discloses that the core is recommended to undergo a distortion of 2.2-5.0 mm, especially 2.7-4.5 mm, under an applied load of 100 kg. Further, Yamagishi '503 discloses that the cover has a Shore D scale of at least 60, preferably 62-70 (col. 5, lines 19-21). A comparison of the ball diameter and dimple contour length features among the various examples and comparative examples of Yamagishi '503 is provided in the attached table of Exhibit A. Examples 1-4 of Yamagishi '503 are described at columns 5-7 and include various dimple arrangements, the dimensions being summarized in Table 2 at column 7, lines 1-13.

Yamagishi '503 fails to disclose or suggest a golf ball, as in the present invention, which has a diameter with an upper limit of 42.85 mm. As noted above, all of the examples described by Yamagishi '503, i.e. Examples 1-4, have diameter in the range of

43.50-46.10 mm which are all greater than the diameter of the golf ball of the present invention. It is also noted that the smaller diameters of Comparative Examples 1 and 2 of 42.70 mm fail to include the appropriate percentage of dimples having a contour length of greater than or equal to 11.6 mm, such that these Comparative Examples are also inconsistent with the present invention. Consequently, it is submitted that significant patentable distinctions exist between the present invention and Yamagishi '503, such that the present claims patentably define over this document.

It is submitted for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should be placed into condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By  ✓

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made
Exhibit A

(Rev. 02/20/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A golf ball including a core comprising one or more layers formed by crosslinking a rubber composition, and a cover comprising one or more layers formed from a resin composition, wherein said golf ball has:

a diameter of from 42.67 mm to 42.85 mm;

an amount of compressive deformation of from 2.5 mm to 4.0 mm when measured with applying an initial load of 10 kgf to a final load of 130 kgf;

a Shore D hardness of the outermost layer of said cover being from 58 to 72; and

a percentage of the number of dimples having a contour length of greater than or equal to 11.6 mm ~~occupied in~~ based on the total number of ~~numerous~~ dimples formed over the surface thereof of greater than or equal to 50%.

Claims ~~7-12~~ have been added.